

Hornes  
N. B. M. Conulate,  
Canton. 27. Sept. 1878.

My dear Dr. Gray,  
I received six days ago your kind note of 8. July, and also the valuable papers of yours from the Transactions of the Am. Acad. of Sc. Not one of these was in my profession, so that they were very acceptable indeed.

I will not forget, when I next write to my friend Mr. Austin, to stir him up to write to you. The last I heard of him he had had to go to Pittsburg on business. He owes me a letter.

I was delighted to see the announcement of an instatement of your new N. Amer. Flora, & I shall at once send for it. The Californian Bot. (vol. I.) & Cortes' Colorado fl. Synopsis I already have, as well as Watson's Bot. of the 40<sup>th</sup> parallel.



When I think of these works, of DeCandolle's  
'Flora orientalis', of the large series of  
Floras issued by the Kew Librarian, &  
the many carefully & critically elaborated  
books on various European Floras which  
have appeared of late years, I cannot help  
contrasting the different position in which  
a person desirous of making a careful  
study of <sup>systematic</sup> botany is in now as ago to  
that in which he was placed when I came  
to China 34 years ago! How uncertain  
was then the actual position of many  
genera, how imperfectly the full details  
of their structure known; and what a ~~map~~ <sup>state</sup>  
of confusion the species and innume-  
rable genera were in. Surely, the rising  
generation ought to rejoice at the stumbling  
blocks which have been removed from their  
path; and they cannot help regarding you as  
one of the chief benefactors to whom they  
are indebted for macadamising the  
via botanica. If you ever have time,

dear Dr. Gray, to drop me a few lines,  
they will always be gratefully received.  
I hope Mr. Charles Wright and Mr.  
Brigham are well.

With my very best wishes for  
your continued health, and that you  
may enjoy unabated opportunities and  
strength for the completion of your  
self-imposed task,

I am,

My dear Dr. Gray,

Very sincerely yours

A. H. Hance